

structural component in the reference image; and

a parameter specification step of specifying parameters with high degree of matching on the basis of the comparison result in the comparison step.

19. The image processing method according to Claim 18, wherein the extraction process includes a binarization process.

20. An image processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting an image;

an extraction step of extracting a predetermined structural component from the image input in the input step; and

a feature-amount calculation step of calculating the amount of feature based on the width of the structural component extracted in the extraction step.

21. The image processing method according to Claim 20, wherein

the extraction in the extraction step includes a binary image formation step of forming a binary image of the predetermined structural component in the image, and

the width of the structural component is based on the result of a distance transform and skeleton process for the

binary image.

22. The image processing method according to Claim 20, wherein the amount of feature includes a numeric value to evaluate the magnitude of variation in the width of the structural component.

23. The image processing method according to Claim 22, wherein the numeric value includes a standard deviation or distribution.

24. An image processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting an image comprising a plurality of color signals;

an extraction step of extracting desired structural components from at least two of the color signals constituting the image input in the input step; and

a calculation step of calculating the combination of the amounts of feature based on the structural components extracted in the extraction step.

25. The image processing method according to Claim 24, wherein

the extraction in the extraction step includes a binary image formation step of forming a binary image of each

structural component, and

in the calculation step, the combination of the amounts of feature is calculated based on the binary images.

26. An image processing method comprising:

an input step of inputting an image including a plurality of color signals;

an extraction step of extracting desired structural components from at least two of the color signals constituting the image input in the input step;

a combination step of combining the structural components extracted in the extraction step; and

a calculation step of calculating the amount of feature based on the combination result in the combination step.

27. The image processing method according to Claim 26, wherein in the combination step, the combination is performed on the basis of local values of the structural components.

28. The image processing method according to Claim 1, wherein the image input in the input step includes an endoscopic image.

29. The image processing method according to Claim 1,

wherein the structural component includes a blood vessel or a pit in the image.

30. An image processing system comprising:
an input unit for inputting an image; and
an extraction unit for performing matching between a template, obtained by modeling a predetermined structural component in the image, and the image input in the input step to extract a structural component serving as an extraction target in the image.

31. The image processing system according to Claim 30, further comprising:

a position specification unit for specifying a position of the extraction target structural component in the input image, wherein

the extraction unit extracts the extraction target structural component on the basis of the matching result obtained by the position specification unit.

ABSTRACT

According to the present invention, an image processing method includes: an input step of inputting an image; and an extraction step of performing matching between a template, obtained by modeling a predetermined structural component in the image, and the image input in the input step to extract a structural component serving as an extraction target in the image.